



**Region 10 Tribal Operations Committee**  
Monthly Conference Call Minutes  
Thursday, December 21, 2013



**Attendance**

**RTOC:**

Violet Yeaton-Tribal Co-chair AK#2  
Daniel Chythlook-AK #3  
Noelle Saluskin - Eastern Washington  
Destiny Wellman - Western Washington  
Alternate  
James Holt- ID RTOC

Brian Holter, JR - Alternate AK#2  
Gabriel Bohnee - Idaho  
Lance Whitwell- Alternate AK#3  
David Fuller - W. Washington

**NTOC:**

Billy Maines, AK #2  
Lee Juan Tyler –ID, OR, W. Washington NTOC  
Watson, Glen Sr - AK#1 Alternate

Victoria Kotongan - AK#1  
Kelly Wright–ID, OR, W.WA Alt.

**EPA:**

David Allnutt: EPA Co-Chair Alternate  
Sally Thomas – EPA Co-Chair Alternate

Diana Boquist- Tribal Coordinator  
JR Herbst - Tribal Coordinator

**RTOC Staff:**

Christy Belanger- Communications Specialist

Rick Eichstaedt- Policy Analyst

**Excused:**

Tom Downey- Oregon  
Washington  
Rosalie Kalistook Tribal Vice Co-Chair  
Alternate

Debra Lekanof – W. Oregon & W.

Millie Hawley- Tribal Vice-chair AK#1

**Absent:**

Billy Jean Stewart – AK #2 Alternate  
Margaret Corvi - Oregon

## **Opening - Update: Violet Yeaton**

First RTOC Orientation with new members (12.19.2013)

Margaret Corvi – RTOC Oregon Alternate

Noelle Saluskin – RTOC Eastern Washington

Victoria Kotongan – NTOC AK#1

### **Action Items:**

- Christy Belanger will apply page numbers to all agenda.
- Rick Eichstaedt will clean up Section on November Minutes.
- Note concern: Inadequate Notification to Tribes and Consultation: Lee Juan Tyler
- Consultation Process: There are entities out there that bypass the consultation process and would like to see if RTOC or EPA can spear head,. Need to make sure agencies start consulting with Tribes. It was noted by David Allnut that EPA doesn't have any authority on specific issues like "Mega Loads" but will consult with tribes if they do in the future.
- Violet will follow up with Fran on the Inter-Agency Task Force.
- Sally Thomas will have Breakdown of FY13 funding to Debra and Violet and will attach to QM in January.
- Christy Belanger will put the Draft 2014 – 2018 EPA Strategic Plan Online
- Request ALL RTOC Members review Draft 2014 – 2018 EPA Strategic Plan send comments to Rick Eichstaedt so he can work on comments on behalf of RTOC.
- Rick and Kelley will draft letter to EPA re TSCA PCB rulemaking process for approval at the January meeting.
- RTOC will look at Mirroring the National Strategic Plan
- Christy: contact Team Building Members to schedule (2) additional conference calls in January.
- Christy will be sending out survey on AFE Attendance.

### **Approve Agenda of December, 2013:**

Motion by Brian Holter to adopt an open agenda; seconded by Lee Juan Tyler. Motion carries

### **Approve Minutes of September, 2013: (Tabled 09.09.13)**

Minutes have been clarified (Action Items #7; Revisions to Priorities Document – Revised by Rick Eichstaedt and Linda Anderson-Carnahan approved.

Motion by Daniel Chythlook to adopt meeting minutes of September 2013; seconded by Kelly Wright. Motion carries

### **Approve Minutes of November 2013:**

Motion by David Fuller to adopt meeting minutes November; seconded by Brian Holter.

Motion carries

**EPA Update:** David Allnut

Missed November meeting as he was covering for Dennis McLerran for the first meeting Washington Marine advisory Council for Ocean certification Issues put together by the governor. He will keep us updated on the issues, as it looks to be a great group.

Update on Meeting in DC, First Meeting from the EPA Senior Executive for the last few years. The whole agency pulled together by Gina McCarthy – EPA Goals and Priorities.

EPA Concerns were Budget and will affect size of EPA resulting in a smaller work force. They have been advised they will have a smaller work force that is fully loaded to give them more ability to travel, be trained, IT resources and facilities to accomplish their goals.

Gina McCarthy Proposals: New Strategic Plan  
Priorities

- Clean Air
- Climate Change Protection
- Clean Water
- Clean Communities

4 Proposals Cross Cutting Fundamental Strategies

- Sustainability  
how we can more Affectability integrate sustainability practices in our decision making processes.  
Administrator has requested they incorporate the sustainability principles to things like:
  1. Need for reviewing department decisions
  2. GrantsResulting in increased Sustainability
- Enhanced Partnerships  
How can we leverage States, Tribes and Local Governments and Governments internationally to use their resources to fulfill EPA's Goals?  
How do we use these other entities to that may have that goal to accomplish these missions?
  1. Traditionally, they do that through delegating programs or authorizing states to run Federal Programs, PAS is another way.
  2. Give Grants to Tribes to accomplish the Goals.
- Communities (Focus from the administrator)  
Instead of getting Congress to come along with what EPA thinks is appropriate, they need to reach the communities level and demonstrate what they are already doing to help human health and environment at communities scale. Also engage the

communities and hear the issues in the communities to modify EPA's work to insure that the communities based engagement and they are working on what the communities want them to do, which is where they will put their focus.

- High Preformed Organization

How can they, with decreasing resources, accomplish the work they need to do help the Human Health and environment. They will work on making sure they have the resources they need to accomplish the goals and prioritize their work.

RTOC Strategic Plan will help them establish the priorities, knowing they will not be able to get to the bottom of the priorities list. They want to make sure they have the resources for the issues at the top of the list are actually accruing.

This is the National Strategic Plan for 2014, 2015, 2016

This is the internal strategy – This will go public.

This is out for comment: Deadline January 3, 2014

Violet Yeaton: RTOC Need to Review Draft 2014 – 2018 EPA Strategic Plan

Suggest RTOC will look at mirroring the National Strategic Plan in some way.

They are looking at the partnerships with states and tribes and utilizing the resources they have. RTOC can come up with recommendations.

Sally Thomas:

Working to re-organize who's carrying what GAP Grant work load with Diana Leaving – we will hear in January who will do what.

Working internally now on the EPA Tribal environmental plan (ETEP).

All the EPA Reps have been meeting since September and they will be reaching out to the tribes that have volunteered to work on their EPA Tribal Environmental Plans this year (January)

Referencing ETEPS

Lance Whitwell: The Native Village of Venetie has been asked to volunteer to be one of the tribe to be conducting ETEPS (EPA Tribal Environmental Plan) – he will keep us posted on how it's going.

Violet Yeaton: Sally Thomas and EPA came to the ATCEM to give update on the newly implemented GAP Guidance for FY15 grants. They advised there would be 40 tribes selected for ETEP. Sally Thomas advised they were required to put a schedule together to turn in to the Headquarters Office, they looked at the number of tribes they have been working with, they had 4-5 years to complete an ETEP for every federally recognized tribe within Region 10 and they divided up the numbers.

First Year: Target 27 Tribes – 31 tribes have volunteered this year.

She will share the successes and trials the Tribes that volunteered once they have it finalized.

David Allnut: Confirmed they are already reduce the EPA Staff and they will be reduced some more.

Overall 18.000 – 19.000 EPA, they will be reduced to more like 15000 in the next couple years. In the Region that mean going from 650 to 500 people – Major Reduction and this will change how they accomplish everything, they will have to do everything more efficiently and some things they will not be able to do.

Violet Yeaton: Red Flag, Hope this does not affect our tribal coordinator working with the tribes in Region 10 and this does not affect them. We have an adequate number now to be successful.

David Allnut: They have been able to manage reduction through Retirement but they do not know at this time what will happen in the future. They have 12 now and they are hoping not to reduce that number.

**Communications Update:** Christy Belanger

- New Members Director has been sent to all members, please review for publication and send updates if needed.
- Requesting BIOS and Photos for Kiosk and Directory publication updates.
- Hotels in Seattle have been confirmed, Will be sending out reminders for everyone who has not confirmed for the January Quarterly Meeting.
- Request all RTOC members to submit information or updates they wish to have on the website for current events.

**Policy Analyst Update:** Rick Eichstaedt

- Need all RTOC members to review and provide edits to Rick of the TELS State Caucus summaries.
- EPA is conducting rulemaking of PCB rules under TSCA law. The proposed rules will not address a major source of PCBs entering the environment – the inadvertent production of PCBs. Rick and Kelly will draft letter to EPA to address TOC's concerns with this approach for the RTOC to review in January.

**Team Building Exercise:** Violet Yeaton & Rick Eichstaedt

- Name: Team Building to be changed by Facilitator at a later time.
- Team Building facilitated by: Sono Hashisaki and team.

Request additional Members for the Team Building Committee

Volunteered: Approved

- |                |                 |                    |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| • Brian Holter | • Glen Watson   | • Rick Eichstaedt  |
| • JR Herbst    | • Violet Yeaton | • Christy Belanger |

Team will meet 2 additional times to prepare for January meeting.

Team Building exercise scheduled for January 22, 2014 from 8:00am to 3:00pm at this time.  
Team Building agenda TBA at this time, Committee and Violet will work on the agenda.

This is a Full Day: This day will include a working lunch which menus will be supplied by Christy in the morning and each member will be allowed to charge to their hotel rooms which they can pay for at check out.

### **January In-Person Meeting: Violet Yeaton & Christy Belanger**

- January 22, 2014, After Team Building, we will hold RTOC Elections for the Co-Chair and Vice Co-Chair. (Voting by Primary's only)  
This process is usually very quick.
- We will Review the Charter and Operations Guidance, vote on suggested changes  
Suggested we change the operational guidance to match the charter
  1. Operation Guidance Section I.B.1 – J does not match Charter section 5.1.4
  2. Christy Requests change in Operational Guidance: Travel Section
  3. Typos will be adjusted on final copies before the January Meeting.
- January 24, 2014 (Last Day)  
This day has been reserved for our day with Dennis McLerran. Our Discussion include
  1. HOT Topics
  2. PCB
  3. RTOC Region Updates
  4. NTOC Regional Updates

Please contact Christy, Rick &/or Violet if you have additional topics you would like on the agenda with Dennis and we will make sure it is applied to the agenda. Please send additional information on the discus to Christy so we may send it to Dennis McLerran to preparation. This will allow Dennis to have the Information you may need.

Each member will be given approximately 5 Minutes for your update with Dennis McLerran, If you should need additional time, please feel free to contact Christy for agenda adjustment.

- January 23: We have a very tight schedule
  1. EJ Folks
  2. Solid Waste update with Fran Stefan
  3. EPA: Ginna Grepo-Grove
  4. ETEPS workgroup update with Sally Thomas
- EPA Going away Party for Diana is the rest of the afternoon 1-5
  1. Request gifts from all members, Christy will bring a card for all to sign.
  2. As we have a very tight schedule, we may need to cut the party short to finalize our agenda.

## **Alaska Forum on the Environment: Violet Yeaton & Christy Belanger**

- Nominations for the Daniel Ellanak Award are requested
- As budgeted the AFE Booth and Presentation night have been confirmed.
- Request from all RTOC that wish to attend AFE and in RTOC Funding, Please confirm with Christy and/or Violet. We look forward to seeing everyone there that wishes to attend.
- Due to the many problems over the years, RTOC members will not have to stay at the Marriott Downtown, the Captain Cook hotel has blocked out space for our members. This is the same cost as the Marriott Downtown and the Captain Cook also has Shuttle service from the airport on request. (Additional Charge)
- Please contact Christy if you wish to stay at the Captain Cook.

### **Proposed Conference Dates** (Suggested dates at this time only)

February Conference Call: February 20, 2014

March Conference Call: March 20, 2014

April In-Person Meeting: April 22 -24, 2014 Seattle, WA (Primary)

May Conference Call: May, 22, 2013

June In-Person Meeting: TBAONSITE Indian Country w/Tour (HOST?)

- **Request suggestions on which tribe would like to host?**

July Conference Call: July 24, 2014

August Conference Call: August 21, 2014

September In-Person Meeting: September 22 – 25, 2014 (Primary)

### **Conference Call Time Change:** No change at this time.

- Unfortunately these times are during Alaska Lunches, but if we change them they will interfere with EPA schedules.